



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

8 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Anza – Marijuana Valued at \$36 Million Seized in Raid of Illegal Grow Operation

(U) Riverside County sheriff's deputies seized processed marijuana and plants with an estimated value of \$36 million from properties in Anza in the latest raids in Riverside County. Deputies, assisted by state Department of Fish and Wildlife officers, uprooted more than 4,500 marijuana plants, officials said. They found more than 11,000 pounds of processed marijuana in a warehouse and processing sheds. No arrests were announced in connection with the grow operation.

SOURCE: 8 October 2020, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Eight Charged in California-to-Alaska Drug Distribution Network

(U) Federal authorities have charged eight people for participating in a drug distribution network that shipped bulk quantities of cocaine from Compton to Alaska. Using women as couriers, the ring sent cocaine and other narcotics to Alaska and Oregon on commercial flights. Investigators secretly monitored the networks' phone calls and text messages to identify the transactions which took place between April 2015 to August 2016. Raul Cisneros Jr., a 42-year-old resident of Compton was identified as the supplier for the network.

SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER

(U) Mexico – Cocaine-Laden Plane Crashes After Airborne Pursuit

(U) Mexico City – A light aircraft carrying 880 pounds of cocaine crashed in central Mexico after a high-speed airborne chase with authorities, and two people aboard died. Mexican military helicopters intercepted the plane in Mexican airspace and pursued it for hundreds of miles until it ran out of fuel and crashed in Botija, Queretero. In recent months a number of business jets have crashed or been abandoned in Central America and southern Mexico in an apparent uptick in aerial smuggling. This crash came less than two weeks after a business jet reported stolen in Mexico crashed in a Guatemalan jungle near a hidden airstrip, leaving two men dead near an onboard stash of drugs and weapons. It had made a mysterious trip to Venezuela.

SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – United States Dismantles Global Disinformation Campaign Tied to Iran

(U) Washington – US prosecutors have seized a network of web domains which they said were used in a campaign by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to spread political disinformation around the world. The Justice Department has taken control of 92 domains used by the IRGC to pose as independent media outlets targeting audiences in the United States, Europe, Middle East and South East Asia. The seizure is the latest move by US law enforcement to disrupt what officials say are foreign interference campaigns targeting the United States ahead of next month's presidential election.

SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – ICE Arrests Alleged Mexican Street Gang Leader

(U) Corona – US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Removal Operations officers took custody of Fernando Olea-Prado, 25, a self-described leader of the Sureños (Sur 13) street gang, in Corona, New York. On 11 September, New York Police Department arrested and charged Olea-Prado, an unlawfully present Mexican national, with three counts of robbery, assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and criminal possession of stolen property. After his most recent arrest, Olea-Prado had been released from local law enforcement custody despite being the subject of an active ICE detainer. Olea-Prado will remain in ICE custody pending the outcome of his removal proceedings before an immigration judge. SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [US ICE Newsroom](#)

(U) Virginia– ISIS Militants Charged With Deaths Of Americans In Syria

(U) Alexandria – Two militant fighters for foreign terrorist organization ISIS arrived in the United States yesterday on charges related to their participation in a brutal hostage-taking scheme that resulted in the deaths of four American citizens, as well as the deaths of British and Japanese nationals, in Syria. The former British citizens, Alexandra Amon Kotey, 36, and El Shafee Elsheikh, 32, made their initial appearances in a federal court in Alexandria yesterday in front of US Magistrate Judge Theresa C. Buchanan. Kotey and Elsheikh will next appear in federal court on Friday when they are scheduled for a detention hearing. SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [US DOJ News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Kenya – Court Finds Two Guilty in Deadly Westgate Mall Attack

(U) Nairobi – A Kenyan court has found two men guilty of helping al-Qa’ida-linked fighters launch a 2013 assault on a Nairobi shopping mall where gunmen massacred at least 67 people. A third man, who also faced charges under the country’s terrorism-prevention act, was acquitted on all charges in the judgment that was announced yesterday. It comes more than seven years after gunmen from the Somalia-based armed group al-Shabaab carried out the attack. SOURCE: 7 October 2020, [Al Jazeera](#)

(U) Netherlands – Dutch Court Convicts Six Men of Plotting Massive Jihadi Attack

(U) The Hague – A Dutch court convicted six men today of plotting a large-scale jihadi attack on a public event and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from 10 to 17 years. The men were planning to open fire with AK-47 assault rifles at a festival and to detonate a car bomb in late 2018. They also wanted to wear explosive vests and detonate them when police arrived. However, intelligence agencies tipped off police and an undercover operative was able to infiltrate the gang and ultimately thwart their preparations before any attack took place. The suspects were arrested by heavily armed police in September 2018. SOURCE: 8 October 2020, [The Washington Post](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.